NUMB. V.

The GUARDIAN.

Laudantur ſimili prole puerperæ. Hor.

Tueſday, March 17. 1713.

I Have in my ſecond Paper mentioned the Family, into which I was retained by the Friend of my Youth; and given the Reader to underſtand, that my Obligations to it are ſuch as might well naturalize me into the Intereſts of it. They have, indeed, had their deſerved Effect; and if it were poſſible for a Man, who has never entered into the State of Marriage, to know the Inſtincts of a kind Father to an Honourable and Numerous Houſe, I may ſay I have done it. I do not know but my Regards, in ſome Conſiderations, have been more uſeful than thoſe of a Father; and as I wanted all that Tenderneſs, which is the Byaſs of Inclination in Men towards their own Offſpring, I have had a greater Command of Reaſon when I was to judge of what concerned my Wards, and conſequently was not prompted, by my Partiality and Fondneſs towards their Perſons, to tranſgreſs againſt their Intereſts.

As the Female Part of a Family is the more conſtant and immediate Object of Care and Protection, and the more liable to Misfortune or Diſhonour, as being in themſelves more ſenſible of the former, and from Cuſtom and Opinion for leſs Offences more expoſed to the latter; I ſhall begin with the more delicate part of my Guardianſhip, the Women of the Family of *Lizard*. The Ancient and Religious Lady, the Dowager of my Friend Sir *Ambroſe*, has for ſome time eſtranged her ſelf from Converſation, and admits only of the Viſits of her own Family. The Obſervation, That Old People remember beſt thoſe things which entred into their Thoughts when their Memories were in their full Strength and Vigour, is very remarkably exemplified in this good Lady and my ſelf when we are in Converſation: I chuſe indeed to go thither, to divert any Anxiety or Wearineſs, which at any time I find grow upon me from any preſent Buſineſs or Care. It is ſaid, that a little Mirth and Diverſion are what recreate the Spirits upon thoſe Occaſions; but there is a kind of Sorrow, from which I draw a Conſolation that ſtrengthens my Faculties, and enlarges my Mind beyond any thing that can flow from Merriment. When we meet, we ſoon get over any Occurrence which paſſed the Day before, and are in a Moment hurried back to thoſe Days which only we call good ones: The Paſſages of the Times when we were in Faſhon, with the Countenances, Behaviour and Jollity, ſo much forſooth above what any appear in now, are preſent to our Imaginations, and almoſt to our very Eyes. This Converſation revives to us the Memory of a Friend, that was more than my Brother to me; of a Husband, that was dearer than Life to her: Diſcourſes about that dear and worthy Man generally ſend her to her Cloſet, and me to the Diſpatch of ſome neceſſary Buſineſs, which regards the Remains, I would ſay the numerous Deſcendants, of my generous Friend. I am got, I know not how, out of what I was going to ſay of this Lady; which was, that ſhe is far gone towards a better World; and I mention her only (with Reſpect to this) as ſhe is the Object of Veneration to thoſe who are derived from her: Whoſe Behaviour towards her may be an Example to others, and make the Generality of young People apprehend, that when the Ancient are paſt all Offices of Life, it is then the Young are to exert themſelves in their moſt laudable Duties towards them.

The Widow of Sir *Murmaduke* is to be conſidered in a very different View. My Lady is not in the ſhining Bloom of Life, but at thoſe Years, wherein the Gratifications of an ample Fortune, thoſe of Pomp and Equipage, of being much eſteemed, much viſited, and generally admired, are uſually more ſtrongly purſued than in younger Days: In this Condition ſhe might very well add the Pleaſures of Courtſhip, and the grateful Perſecution of being followed by a Croud of Lovers; but ſhe is an excellent Mother and great Oeconomiſt; which Conſiderations, joined with the Pleaſure of living her own way, preſerve her againſt the Intruſion of Love. I will not ſay that my Lady has not a ſecret Vanity in being ſtill a fine Woman, and neglecting thoſe Addreſſes, to which perhaps we in part owe her Conſtancy in that her Neglect.

Her Daughter *Jane*, her eldeſt Child of that Sex, is in the Twenty third Year of her Age, a Lady who forms her ſelf after the Pattern of her Mother; but in my Judgment, as ſhe happens to be extremely like her, ſhe ſometimes makes her Court unskilfully, in affecting that Likeneſs in her very Mein, which gives the Mother an uneaſie Senſe, that Mrs. *Jane* really is what her Parent has a mind to continue to be; but 'tis poſſible I am too obſerving in this particular, and this might be overlooked in them both, in reſpect to greater Circumſtances: For Mrs. *Jane* is the Right hand of her Mother; it's her Study and conſtant Endeavour to aſſiſt her in the management of her Houſhold, to keep all idle Whiſpers from her, and diſcourage them before they can come at her from any other hand; to enforce every thing that makes for the Merit of her Brothers and Siſters towards her, as well as the Diligence and Chearfulneſs of her Servants. It's by Mrs. *Jane*'s Management, that the whole Family is governed, neither by Love nor Fear, but a certain Reverence which is compoſed of both. Mrs. *Jane* is what one would call

(Price Two Pence.)